

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method for assembling an engine intake manifold comprising the steps of:

providing a first component of an engine intake manifold having an associated first mating surface and a second component having an associated second mating surface, wherein at least one of the first or second components is a plastic material;

placing a cure-on-demand adhesive about the periphery of the first, second or both mating surfaces;

joining the first and second components along the first and second mating surfaces; and

curing the adhesive during a separate and remote curing operation in time, location or both after the placement of the adhesive and the joining of the first and second components.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 34, wherein the adhesive is encapsulated and the curing step includes rupturing an encapsulated curing agent.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 34, wherein the adhesive includes a protective coating and the curing step includes removing a protective coating to expose the adhesive to ambient conditions.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 34, wherein the first, second or both mating surfaces are non-planar.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 37, wherein upon joining of the first and second component a joint is formed comprising a butt joint, lap joint or tongue in groove joint.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~25~~ 38, wherein at least one of the first or second components includes a plastic.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 34, wherein the plastic material forming at least one of the first or second components include a filled polyamide.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 34, further comprising the step of mechanically attaching the first and second components with a mechanical attachment feature.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~28~~ 41, wherein the mechanical attachment feature comprises a snap fitting.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 34, wherein the adhesive includes a high temperature epoxy resin adhesive.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~24~~ 34, wherein the adhesive includes a high temperature mineral filled catalyzed adhesive.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method for assembling an engine intake manifold comprising the steps of:

providing a first thermoplastic component of an engine intake manifold having an associated first mating surface and a second thermoplastic component having an associated second mating surface, wherein the first and second mating surfaces are non-planar;

placing a continuous bead or film of high temperature epoxy resin cure-on-demand adhesive about the periphery of the first, second or both mating surfaces;

joining the first and second components along the first and second mating surfaces, wherein upon joining the first and second mating surfaces are spatially located at a predetermined distance relative to one another; and

curing the adhesive during a separate and remote operation in time, location or both after the placement of the adhesive, wherein upon curing of the adhesive a joint is formed having a strength greater than the strength of the second thermoplastic component.

Claim 46 (previously presented): A method for assembling an engine intake manifold comprising the steps of:

providing a first thermoplastic component having an associated first non-planar mating surface and a second thermoplastic component having an associated second non-planar mating surface, wherein the first, second or both components include an integrally formed mechanical attachment feature configured for engaging the other first or second component;

placing a continuous bead or film of high temperature epoxy resin adhesive about the periphery of the first, second or both mating surfaces; and

joining the first and second components wherein the mechanical attachment feature maintains spatial relationship of the first and second components during curing of the adhesive and the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said second molded plastic component.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~33~~ 46, wherein the first, second or both components are filled or other includes a reinforcing material.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~33~~ 46, wherein the plastic material forming at least one of the first or second components includes a filled polyamide.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~35~~ 48, wherein the adhesive includes a high temperature epoxy resin adhesive.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~35~~ 48, wherein the adhesive includes a high temperature mineral filled catalyzed adhesive.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~33~~ 46, wherein the mechanical attachment comprises a snap fit configured for providing an audible indicator upon joining of the first and second component.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~33~~ 46, wherein upon joining of the first and second component a joint is formed comprising a butt joint, lap joint or tongue in groove joint.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~33~~ 46, further comprising the step curing the adhesive during a separate and remote curing operation in time, location or both after the placement of the adhesive and the joining of the first and second thermoplastic components.